

between the towers a circular form, to add to their defence. After this I surveyed the land round the castle. Its environs reminded me of the description I had read of this country in some Arabian tales. A profound silence; the breath of a scorching wind, arising from the heat of the day, which drew to a conclusion; a plain of an uniform grey, similar to that of ash, which seemed also to proclaim its heat; a prospect which was bounded by the horizon, whose grey, forlorn, and mournful atmosphere, offered no other remarkable object but the sun, pale and reddish at the moment of its setting; in a word, all conspired to strike an awe. I descended from this mournful abode, and rejoined my companions.

We continued our road next day, and after two days march, we once more got water at some wells, where we found four tents, the women from which came to mend our bot-

tles. The day following I had like to have broken my neck, having fallen from my camel, when it rose for departure.

The third day after we left the wells, where we had found the four tents, we saw, towards the evening, twelve Arabians with camels. The chief of our caravan, conscious perhaps of the smallness of their number, sent after them. They were driven away by firing at them, and they left on the field of battle some linen, goat-skin bottles, and clubs. I could not in my mind approve of this action; and conjecturing that twelve men were not alone in those parts, I dreaded the consequences of this act of hostility. I compared the precaution with which some days before we had viewed the Arabian camp, where we were the weaker, to our boldness at the sight of a handful of people, who were almost unarmed. This proceeding I could not deem at all generous.

[To be continued.]

ACCOUNT OF ATCHEEN, IN THE ISLAND OF SUMATRA.

BY THOMAS FORREST, ESQ.

THE kingdom of Atcheen, called Achè by the natives, extends from the north west promontory of the island Sumatra (called Atcheen Head, a well-known and bold land-fall for ships) to beyond Batoo Bara River, on the north side of the island. On the south-west coast it extends to Baroos,* once possessed, but now abandoned, by the Dutch.

Formerly it certainly extended much farther on this side; as we find, in 1619, Commodore Beaulieu got a permit from the king to load pepper at Ticoo,† lying some miles south of the equator. Inland, the kingdom extends not so far as on either side of the island; and terminates at Sinkel, where the Batta‡ dominion begins. It contains altogether an area of about 26,000

* Behind an island off Baroos, called Pulo Carang (Stony Island), there is good shelter in ten fathoms, mud; the inner end of the island, which must be left on the left hand going in, bearing west, and the cascade on Mazular (very remarkable, about 400 feet high) bearing S. E. by S. $\frac{1}{2}$ S. After sunset, but before dark, many large bats go from this island to the main land. They return early in the morning, and sleep all day, hanging to trees by their hooked wings.

† Behind the Ticoo Islands, and behind the Priaman Islands, there is also shelter against N. W. and W. winds, for ships of any size. They are small, low, and covered with trees.

‡ The Battas are a well-meaning, ignorant, simple people. The Malays and Atcheeners have the address to persuade them that they settle at the mouths of their rivers to defend them from invasion (from white men especially); whereas, it is to enjoy the monopoly of the camphire and benjamin, which they gather near Sinkel River, Baroos, and

26,000 square miles, lying in a triangular shape; and is sheltered by a range of hills that runs from the head or promontory to the south-east, and another to the E N E; the lands between being very fertile, and much better inhabited than any other equal portion of the island.

The king's revenue arises chiefly from import and export duty, and may be about 30000 l. a year. He has also a small acknowledgment of rice from the land in general; and has besides, the rents of royal domains, which are but trifling.

His nobles draw a revenue from their respective districts, of which they are feudal lords, levied on the land and the industry of the inhabitants.

They manufacture from cotton of their own growth a species of cloth, chequered blue and white, which the better sort wear universally for drawers, whilst the common people wear coarse Madras long cloth unbleached. They also make a species of silk, very handsome and very dear, compared with the slighter taffetas of Bengal, of which they buy large quantities from the country ships that import that article. They also cast excellent small brass guns, called rantacka; and are curious in fillagree work, both in gold and silver.

Being at Atcheen in 1762, I enquired particularly of a Jew linguist, named Abraham, why the Orankayos (men of rank and sub-

stance) were not allowed to trade freely, as they did many years before. He said the kings of Atcheen had always lived on very bad terms with the Orankayos who got rich by trade; and, to lessen their consequence, his minister advised him to be sole trader himself; which counsel he imprudently followed, and by that means has impoverished his kingdom in general, that makes no figure at present to what it did formerly. It is true, in trading with the prince's minister, whom they called Shabander (a word they adopt from the Dutch, of, I believe, Spanish origin), they pay no duty in or out. What then? whilst the captain or supercargo can deal only with one person, he must submit to his price. This mode, however, has its convenience, as already hinted at; and, if the king's terms are too hard, the ship can go elsewhere. The king monopolizes the gross sale of all the opium, and farms the retail sale of it also, all over his dominions: much is sold at Nalaboo, of which place more will be said.

Here, at Atcheen, is a profusion of all tropical fruits, especially mangustines, rambustines, mangoes, jacks, durians, lances, pine-apples, limes, and oranges; and the worst kind of bread fruit. Of vegetables they have bredy, a kind of spinach; lobucks (the Spanish radish); large purple brinjalles, yams both red and white, and the St. Helena yam called clody; and many different sorts of beans, like what we call

French

and Tappanooly. What Mr. Marsden says of the Battas being cannibals, I have great reason to believe.

Trading once at Sinkel for benjamin and camphire, with Babamallum, a reputable Malayman, I purchased from him a Batta slave, who spoke good Malay; I named him Cato. In the many conversations I had with Cato about his countrymen, I beg leave to relate one short story he told me, which may be called the progress of cannibalism.

Babamallum had a favourite wife or concubine stolen from him by a Batta, who sold her. The thief was taken, and executed according to the Batta law for such a crime; that is, he was tied to a stake, and cut to pieces by numberless swords. They roasted pieces of him on the fire; and Babamallum, a civilized Mahometan, put a bit of his roasted flesh into his mouth, bit it with anger, then spit it on the ground.

I dare say Cato did not invent the above: had he said Babamallum ate it as food, seasoned, with salt and lime juice, as did the executioners, I should not have believed him.

French beans (kalavances); also a small kind of onion. The mangoes have a thin stone, and are excellent; not stringy, as often at Madras. The Chulias, for sea use, lay in here a great provision of salted limes, of which they can buy 2 for a petis, or 10 or 1200 for a dollar, * Bullocks 12 dollars a head; ducks, 6 for a dollar; fowls, 8 or 10.

The Chulia Cling or Moorish vessels come yearly from Portonovo, on the coast of Coromandel, and other places, to the number of 12 or 15 sail of snows, generally of 200 and 300 tons. They come in August and September, and return in February, March, and April, during the fine weather; a Moorish ship comes also annually from Surat.

They bring piece goods of all kinds, chiefly long cloth, white and blue; chintz, with dark grounds; and a great deal of coarse long cloth unbleached.† They ballast with salt. During their stay they lie in a smooth road made by the islands that lie off Atcheen Head, keeping off the S.W. wind and swell. During the N.E. monsoon, the swell from that quarter is inconsiderable, and the weather is fine.

These people, often called Malabars, because they speak that language as at Madras, have their privileges, and no doubt stretch them to the utmost. On their arrival they immediately build, by contract with the natives, houses of bamboo, like what in China at Wampo is called bankshall; very regular, on a convenient spot close to the river, to which their large boats of 8 or 10

tons burden have easy access. These boats being too large to hoist in, they tow them over from Coromandel. This spot is railed in and shut at night for fear of thieves.

After the usual presents are made, the king's officers attend duly at the landing of goods. The bales are immediately opened; twelve in the hundred are taken out for king's duty, and the remainder being marked with a certain mark (*chapp*) may be carried where the owner pleases, and sold in any part of the king's dominions. The Chulias at Atcheen sell at leisure, shewing their goods to the natives in as dark a part of their shop as they can. I have bought at Atcheen, in 1772, of Possally, the king's merchant, blue cloth, as cheap as it was to be had at Madras. This is owing to the Cling Telinga people laying in their investment with leisure, care, and frugality. No European, English, French, or Portuguese, can sell near so cheap as they. Chulia vessels pay also port duties.

Talking of the king they call him Tuan-kito, which compound Malay word means my master. There are five great officers of state, who are named Maha Rajah, Luxamana, Rajah Ooda, Ooloo Balang and Parka Rajah. Under these are sixteen inferior officers. The government is monarchical and often despotic,‡ according to the abilities of the reigning prince.

The exchange of the lead petis rises and falls from 250 to 270 for a rupee, and 600 to 650 for a Spanish dollar, as has been said. The king calls in these petis (*cash*) some-

* West India captains of ships might here take a hint, as limes rot under the hedges in the West India islands. The Chulias make four or five incisions long ways into the ripe lime, and put into each a little salt; after lying forty-eight hours or more, they with the hand give each lime a squeeze, then lay them to dry in the sun for several days; they expose the extracted juice also, that all the watery particles may be exhaled. They then put up the limes in jars, pour back the juice upon them, and fill up with more juice, or good vinegar, often had from the coco-nut tree. The lime thus preserved they call Atchar. This given on board ship, with less salt meat, would save many a poor sailor's life.

† Which they call Cain Gadjaw (elephant cloth), as being coarse: in London we call very large paper, elephant.

‡ See Mr. Mariden's account of Sumatra.

sometimes, and issues new ones with a great profit to himself. The legal interest of money is 25 per cent. per annum.

They have a gold coin called *massiah*,* of the size of our sixpence, stamped with Arabic characters: but they are not nearly equal to what they pass for current, being very thin. The Chulias export nothing but gold dust and dollars, of what may be called valuables; sometimes they pick up a few stray rupees and fanams; but they always get filled up with what in India is called a *gruff* (bulky) cargo—areka (beetle nut), redwood, gum benjamin, Sinkel, or Barroos camphire, which, if clear and transparent, is nearly equal to its weight in silver, in China. I had a pecul once sold by Mr. Cox, my agent there, for 1650 Spanish dollars: it is also valuable on Coromandel, being bought by Gentoos for some particular purpose. They also export from Atcheen, pepper, sugar, sulphur, which is found on Pulo Way, a conical high island, 4 or 5 leagues from the river's mouth, once a volcano, and elsewhere; Japan wood; dammer, a kind of rosin: rattans,

patch-leaf, bang,† which is hemp leaves, and when smoked intoxicates. They also export many other articles, which European country captains know nothing of. On all these they pay an export duty, unless immediately bought from the king's merchant. Notwithstanding which, these industrious Chulias and Malabars (the appellations are, I believe, synonymous) bustle about amongst the natives, speak their language‡ (which is not Malay, though to a man the Atcheeners understand Malay), give credit for their produce, and by their diligence and management make the trade answer. Possibly, the king's merchant and prime minister, is a Chulia man, and all the clerks or men of business about him are his countrymen. They write on palm leaves as well as paper, are very shrewd, and full as good accountants as the Conocoplys at Madras, and keep their accounts in the same way.

Many of these Chulias live at Queda, and, no doubt, by this time, at Pulo Pinang, which is a beautiful, healthy, and fruitful island: I was on it many years ago, before it was settled by the English.

[*To be continued.*]

ON THE CHARACTER AND MEMOIRS OF SULLY.*

BY THE MARQUIS D'ARGENSON.

I May boast of having made known the merit of Sully, to many people who did not before sufficiently esteem this Minister of Henry IV. His memoirs have been written under the title of *Economies Royales*, by four of his Secretaries, whom he

had retained after his retreat, and who made a part of his numerous court. Although these memoirs contain excellent things, which make us understand how great a part Sully had in the glory and happiness of the reign of Henry IV. they are

* Five *massiah* is equal to a *mayan*, and sixteen *mayan* to a *boncal*, which weighs 1 ounce, 10 pennyweights, and 21 grains, troy. Five *tayl*, an imaginary weight, is also a *boncal*. Twenty *boncal* is a *catty*, 100 *cattys* make an Atcheen *pecul*, and 3 *peculs* make a *bahar*; sixty-six *cattys* make a China *pecul*. At Nalaboo the *boncal* weighs 17 *mayan*. A *boncal* of clear gold is worth 25 Spanish dollars, or about 58 or 60 rupees. In delivering pepper, they use a square measure called *nelly*, which contains a certain weight or number of *cattys*; and in delivering beetle-nut, a certain measure is supposed to contain a *laxfaa*, or 10,000: a *chupa* is about a quart; 16 *chupas* make a *nelly*.

† *Lascars* often smoke bang by stealth; it makes them drunk: country captains always endeavour to prevent it.

‡ The *Dubashes* at Madras study English, to save young writers the trouble of learning the country language: not so in Bengal.

"dens moins connus, ont excité
"enfin la vigilance de la Police, et
"du gouvernement; & de fait, on
"a étagé en silence les edifices de
"plusieurs quartiers, en leur don-
"nant dans ces obscurs Souterreins
"un apui qu'ils n'avoient pas.

"Tout le Fauxbourgs St. Jacques,
"la Rue de la Harpe, & meme la
"Rue de Tournon, portent sur
"d'anciennes Carriers, & l'on a
"bati des Pilastrs pour soutenir le
"Poids des Maisons. Que de ma-
"tiere a reflexions, en considerant
"cette grande ville formée, & sou-
"tenue par moyens absolument
"contraires! ses Clochers, ces
"Vontes des temples, autant de
"signes, qui disent a l'oeil ce que
"nous voyons en l'air manque sous
"nous Pieds."

"For the first building of Paris,
"it was necessary to get the stone in
"the environs, and the consump-
"tion of it was very considerable.
"As Paris was enlarged, the suburbs
"were insensibly built on the an-
"cient quarries, so that, all that
"you see without is essentially want-
"ing in the earth, for the founda-
"tion of the city: hence proceed
"the frightful cavities, which are

"at this time found under the
"houses in several quarters. They
"stand upon abysses. It would not
"require a very violent shock to
"throw back the stones to the place,
"from whence they have been raised
"with so much difficulty. Eight
"men being swallowed up in a gulph
"one hundred and fifty feet deep,
"and some other less known acci-
"dents, excited at length the vigi-
"lance of the police and the go-
"vernment, and, in fact, the build-
"ings of several quarters have been
"privately propped up; and by
"this means, a support given to
"these obscure subterraneous places,
"which they before wanted.

"All the suburbs of St. James's,
"Harp-street, and even the street
"of Tournon, stand upon the an-
"cient quarries; and pillars have
"been erected to support the weight
"of the houses. What a subject
"for reflections, in considering this
"great city formed, and supported
"by means absolutely contrary!
"These towers, these steeples, the
"arched roofs of these temples are
"so many signs to tell the eye, that
"what we now see in the air, is
"wanting under our feet."

ACCOUNT OF ATCHEEN, IN THE ISLAND OF SUMATRA.

BY THOMAS FORREST, ESQ.

[Continued from Page 130.]

THEY have at Atcheen many
fishing-boats, in shape like a
large thames wherry, supposed to
be raised about 20 inches: they are
called *kolay*, and have one mast, and
a sail shaped almost like a ship's
top-sail, with a yard above, hung by
a hallyard, about one third from
the outer yard arm, and a slight
round boom below, with a sheet
and one bridle only. If the wind
freshens too much, they with a cross
stick like a trunnel, that passes
through the inner end of this boom,
roll up the sail, sheet and all, pas-
sing the lower end of the trunnel

forward, then unroll as the wind
slack. A tack is fast to the inner
yard arm. I need not say the sail
must be dipped in putting about,
which is easily done, whether the
sail is altogether or partly rolled
up. I never saw any thing so con-
venient in any European boat, in
managing which if it blows they
must lower and reef; here they
only roll the sail up or roll it down.

Fish, notwithstanding they have
many fishing boats, is not very
cheap, as the Atcheeners seem fond
of that diet. They catch several
miles out at sea, with nets in those
boats,

boats, a kind of mackerel, or small bonnetta, weighing from 2 to 3 pounds. I have seen worms half an inch long, alive in their flesh, on the back part, when fresh caught. They go out with the land, and return with the sea, wind: their cargoes are presently bought up.

They have also at Atcheen boats with double outriggers and two masts; they are called *bidoo* in general sense, but particularly *ballellangs* and *jellores*: the *ballellang* is rather the broadest. The *banting*, a boat so called, with 2 masts, is tolerably broad, and has no outrigger; those boats that have are comparatively narrow; yet on such they often mount swivel guns, and 20 or 30 men: they sail remarkably fast, in light winds, also in fresh gales, if the water is smooth; if in bad weather one outrigger fails, the other supports the boat. I have seen *jellores* with only one outrigger, sometimes to leeward, sometimes to windward; but not like the ingenious Ladrone prow described in Lord Anson's voyage, which shifts stem for stern. In boats with one outrigger, on one tack, the outrigger to windward weighs down as in the Ladrone prow; on the other tack the outrigger buoys up the body of the boat; so in either case she is kept upright.

The country above the town is very highly cultivated, and abounds with inhabitants in many small villages, and single groups of three or four houses, with white mosques interpersed. Walking that way, if after rain, is disagreeable to a European, as they have no idea of roads: but Malays do not mind walking through mud up to the knee, which, however, they are careful to wash off, when they come to a house, before they enter it. The main street in the town is raised a little, and covered with sand and gravel; but nowhere else are the streets raised; and even this is sometimes overflowed by the swelling of the river, by sudden rain on the hills

just above the town; in which case they make use of canoes: this often happens, especially during the rainy season (our summer); but the town, which is on the south side of the river, straggles so as not to deserve the name of the capital of a populous though small kingdom. They have an excellent breed of horses, much valued at Madras; horned cattle and goats, but few or no sheep. Vessels drawing under eight feet water can come over the bar with spring tides, which is two miles from the town; but cannot go higher than about half a mile, where they sometimes heave down and repair. Here are many of the king's warehouses (*golas*) for Telinga salt. Many Maldivia boats come yearly to Atcheen, and bring chiefly dried bonnetta in small pieces about two or three ounces: this is a sort of staple article of commerce, and many shops in the Bazar deal in it only, having large quantities piled up, put in matt bags. It is, when properly cured, hard like horn in the middle; when kept long the worm gets to it. I am told it is cured at the Maldivia Islands by the sun only. I question whether herrings and pilchards would not answer even carried thus far, they are so fond of fish diet, as Malays in general are. The king's palace (*dallum*) about 100 yards from the skirt of the town, and to which there is access by a canal from the river, as well as by land, is about three quarters of a mile in circumference, is ditched round, and is also surrounded with a strong wall, but not high. A number of large venerable trees shade it, with a good many tall bamboos: it is built on higher ground than the town, so of course it is not subject to be overflowed. I shall say more of it by and by.

I have said, that in the year 1762 I touched at Atcheen in my way to Bencoolen. The shabander, whose name I forgot, not agreeing with me about the price of opium, and learning

learning from the linguist Abraham, that it was impossible to deal with any other person, about the beginning of January I sailed through the Surat passage, with the wind at N. E. leaving about 12 Chulia vessels in the road of Atcheen, and proceeded to Nalaboo, lying in $4^{\circ} 10' N.$ lat. Here, during the N. E. monsoon the weather is remarkably fine, just as it is on the Malabar coast during that monsoon. There is excellent anchorage in 10 fathoms muddy ground, 10 or 12 miles off Nalaboo, and 4 fathoms 2 miles off. During the S. W. monsoon the wind is W. and N. W. with rain.

When I first came near Nalaboo, remarkable for a grove of cocoa-nut trees, on a small promontory (yet not above six feet higher than the beach or low land) I saw in the horizon next the land (being then five leagues off) about twenty small white specks, that seemed to pass across each other: presently I saw each white speck had a smaller black speck close to it, and immediately after found I had got close to a fleet of the smallest fishing boats I ever beheld. The white speck was a sail, and the black speck a man. These canoes fish all under sail, the sail similar to what I have before described; the single man seated abaft, poising his body with great care, unsteps and steps the mast, and sets the sail by leaning forward. They sometimes catch large fish, that drag the boat for perhaps half a minute; these they tow on shore in a small bay between the cocoa-nut grove above mentioned and river's mouth. I have bought from those fishermen, fish of all sizes, very cheap. Into this fresh-water river boats of middling size can enter at all times, except dead low water; and Malay trading prows get in, and go a great way up into a plentiful flat country, abounding with rice. Here fifteen fowls are sold for a dollar; a bullock may be bought for six; and good profit may be had on European goods, especially iron,

steel, and cutlery, also Bengal opium, and coffas of eight and nine rupees value. The king endeavours to monopolize all the trade, but in vain. The gold dust of Nalaboo is reckoned very fine, and the boncal weighs seventeen mayan; at Soosoo not so fine.

In 1762, I sold, during a stay of about ten days, thirty chests of opium to Limambaly, the feudal lord of this district, as the king's officers happened not to be on the spot. I got ten boncal a chest, which is above 550 rupees: the Calcutta prime cost was 250 Arcot rupees. Since that time Limambaly certainly was at war with the king, about the year 1770. I forgot to say, that, during the S. W. monsoon, which, by the gite (lying) of the coast, becomes N. W. and blows fresh with rain, the very small fishing canoes are laid up, and large Atcheen fishing boats (*kolays*) are made use of at Nalaboo; at Soosoo there is a good harbour, in which I have been.

The king of Atcheen gets most of his gold from Nalaboo and Soosoo, and from Pedir within the Malacca strait most of his beetle-nut and pepper. I was once on board of a large Bombay ship, commanded by a very worthy gentleman, Captain Richardson, who had just partly delivered from Atcheen Road a cargo of Coromandel piece goods to the shabander, and had then on board the king's officers, and was bound to Pedir to take in a cargo of beetle-nut. Portuguese vessels carry much beetle-nut, both whole, and cut and dyed red, from Atcheen to Pegu.

English country ships at Atcheen trade always with the king's merchant, who is generally the shabander or minister: this, at least, gives dispatch; they could not have patience to deal with the natives, as the Chulias do, even were they permitted. English vessels have often been cut off at Pedir, when trading there without the king's leave; this happened

happened to Captain Bull and Captain Panton, two very worthy gentlemen, commanding vessels from Bengal, about the year 1765. Captain Bull's vessel was taken by a spirited Serang, when the Malays were off their guard. I am certain, at Nalaboo, Oran Cayo Limambally had no such intention, as he gained upon me so much by his civilities, that I was entirely in his power; but I would advise Malay traders never to be off their guard, as I was, and to be most upon it when great civility is shewn them. At Nalaboo I went on shore more than once; it was rather imprudent. The kings of Atcheen, who seem from all accounts to have been formerly cruel and oppressive tyrants, perhaps wink at such baseness, perhaps encourage it. The persons employed are the most abandoned, at the same time they are of smooth address, who, when the plot is ripe, direct their instruments how to act; as for example, as I have been told, it once happened to an English country captain.—“When I call for my beetle-nut box,” (*tampat seerree*, which is about six or eight inches long, and three or four deep) says the head assassin to his servant, “that is the signal for you to stab the captain with the cres that lies in the bottom of the box covered with beetle leaves.” It is the general custom to disarm the Malays when they come on board to trade: but who would suspect the beetle-box?

The following is an account of one of the most horrid conspiracies I ever heard of; it affects me the more as I was intimate with the sufferers a few days before it happened. It is irregular in point of time, but a-propos to what I am treating of, the treachery and wickedness of Malays in general. In 1784 I waited on the king of Queda at Allister, about one tide above the town, to demand restitution of the value of an English snow and cargo, value 5000l. whose commander,

Captain Cossan, supercargo, Mr. Overbury (a Bencoolen civil servant), two Englishmen, brothers, named May, and the gunner, a Dane, were in one night murdered, September 1782, by one Malay, assisted by one Lascar only, whom he had seduced. They were first attempted to be poisoned, and were all taken with violent vomiting the night the horrid deed was done, after supper: yet no suspicion arose, as the Malay was a passenger in the vessel, under Mr. Overbury's protection. The affair was over in a moment, as they were stabbed in their sleep. One of the two Mays being wounded, jumped overboard, and was never heard of; the captain and gunner were killed outright. Next day the Serang, under pretence of dressing the Malay's hand, that had been cut in struggling with the captain, stabbed him, secured the Lascar (whilst two boats were seen rowing from the shore to the vessel full of men, from Bals Harbour), and carried the snow back to Queda. I could get no satisfaction for vessel or cargo, and Jemmal, the king's minister, a Chulia Moorman, treated the affair lightly: but, truth demands of me to say, I had no letter from the Bengal government, to the king on the subject; I had only a letter from the owners, empowering me (if in my way to Rhio I touched at Queda) to make the demand. What has been done since I know not. Captain Cossan and I careened in Queda River together, in August 1782; and I remember to have heard that the Malay, who had got into favour with Mr. Overbury by his insinuating manners, was taken on board at Jan Syllan, where, I suspect, he had committed something bad. I was credibly informed the Lascar was let run off by Jemmal, who told me he broke prison. The appearance of the boats, that must have been informed by signal only of what had happened, made it be suspected it had been a concerted business at Queda, when the

the vessel repaired there. These particulars I learnt from poor Overbury's Malay girl, at Calcutta. Jemmal, the king's merchant, with difficulty let her have her clothes. She told me Overbury got from the cabin window to the mast head, whence he descended, on the Malay's promising to spare his life; but he stabbed him the moment he reached the quarter-deck. Had he

encouraged the crew from the mast head, they surely would have recovered from their fright sooner than they did.

This is a strange relation, and shews the pusillanimity of Indostaners, when they are not encouraged by a leader: there was at least a Serang and twenty Lascars belonging to the vessel.

[To be concluded in our next.]

THE PRESENT STATE OF THE REPRESENTATION OF ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND.

THE glorious privilege of being governed by laws to which we give our assent, is, we are told, the inestimable birth-right of an Englishman. As this principle is generally admitted, and as it is allowed on all hands that various abuses have been introduced into the representation of the country, it seems highly proper to investigate the real state of such representation; for without such an enquiry, it seems morally impossible for the most sensible and acute politician to prescribe a remedy. In doing this, it becomes necessary to search into the ancient state of each represented body, their political character, right of election, number of voters, and, lastly, into that which is in fact the great cause of all the abuses, into who is the *patron* or prevailing power in each county, city, borough, &c.

That power was originally in the people, is a fact that no one in his senses will deny; and that in order to secure the liberties and properties of individuals, it becomes necessary for every community to delegate such power to some one man, or body of men, to enact laws, and regulate occurrences. In the British constitution, this power is confided to the parliament, consisting of the King, the Lords, spiritual and temporal, and the Commons, or representatives of the people. To preserve to the people their share of the legislation, it is necessary that

VOL. IX.

such representation should be kept free and independent of the other states. Our business, therefore, in the ensuing enquiry, will be to see how far such independence has been maintained or trespassed upon.

The constitutional form of parliaments, consists in every Englishman possessing the privilege to be present either by himself or representative. The peers sit in the upper house, and legislate in person. The other part of the community legislate, as they necessarily must, by representation. The necessity, therefore, of keeping this part of the constitution free from the influence of the other two, must be evident. Yet from various circumstances we are compelled to confess that an influence does prevail; and to see to what extent it prevails, and how far the House of Commons of England represents the whole body of the people, is the intent of the following.

Without entering into the question at what time the Commons of England exercised the right of electing representatives, we have the most undoubted proof, that all the northern nations were governed by their own consent, and they entrusted to the chiefs the conducting of lesser affairs. Tacitus tells us, *De Minoribus rebus principes consultant de Majoribus omnes*. And Xephiline tells us, *Apud hos (Britannos) populus magna ex parte principatum tenet.*—

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It seems that we are laying snares, by requiring them to observe rules which we do not ourselves follow. We bring upon us their hatred, and perhaps make them doubt of our capacity; for people who have no other merit than that of industry, think it a very great one. Without having so great an opinion of exactitude, let us at least believe that it has its value. Lewis XIV. did not disdain to be punctual; he never failed a minute in his appointments; and as great as he was, it was perhaps this personal exactitude which gave him a right to take notice of the least want of it in people about him, and to reproach them with it.

I have frequently heard it said, that we ought not to suffer others to do that which we can do ourselves; for my part, I am of a contrary opinion, and maintain it. We ought to save ourselves the trouble of doing that which may be done by others, but although it be not necessary to do every thing, nothing ought to be disdained. To be attentive to every thing which is done in our name, to adopt certain

principles; to give them to those whom we employ; to take care that they never deviate from them, to be sure of what they do; finally, to know how to gain proper assistance, this is what distinguishes the statesman, the man capable of conducting great affairs. To know how to govern secondary causes, and not to be governed by them, is a sublime art. How happy should I be, if I could find people who could and would think and write for me, say all that I have to say, and execute every thing I would do. But as there are exceptions and bounds to every thing, there are certain cases wherein it is easier to do the business ourselves than by others: God forbid, that by this I should give the advice of an indolent man; my opinion is founded upon reason and experience. It is a good thing to apply habitually to business; but it is still better to look so well into that which is done for us, as to enable us to dispense with a part of our application; but it is necessary to have been a great deal employed, to be able to direct the operations of others.

ACCOUNT OF THE CITY OF BONNOR BONN.

• WITH A VIEW OF THE SAME.

BONN is the place of residence of the Elector of Cologne; is a fortress, situated on the Rhine. The Elector began a fine palace for his residence in 1718, which is not yet finished. There is a principal church, a collegiate, and a parish church. The Jesuits have also a college here, and several orders have cloisters. In the years 1673, 1689,

and 1703, this city was besieged and taken by the Imperialists and their allies, a French garrison being in it each time. By virtue of the peace of Baden, in the year 1714, no garrison is to be kept here in time of peace, the life-guards excepted, but the defence of the town is to be left to the burghers. At this place is a *Rhine* toll.

ACCOUNT OF ATCHEEN, IN THE ISLAND OF SUMATRA.

BY THOMAS FORREST, ESQ.

(*Concluded from Page 217.*)

IN the year 1764 I again visited Atcheen, and had the honour of paying my respects to the king, Mahomed Selim: my audience was

appointed at eight in the evening. I accordingly got ready some piece goods to the amount of about forty rupees, as a present, which were divided

divided into two parcels, and put up in common basta covers, which had been previously stained with turmeric, yellow being the royal colour, as in China and at Mindano. Having been told it was expected I should pull off my shoes, I waved the mortification, by wrapping round each a piece of red bunting, and tying it with a kind of garter of the same, just before I entered the audience hall (*ruma bicharro*), which was about sixty feet long, and twenty broad, built of stone, with a stone floor. At the farther end, which was covered with carpets, hung a superb cloth of gold, about fifteen feet square, which reached within three feet of the floor. There were about twenty well dressed persons in the room, orancayos, a venerable calipha, and others, every one barefooted, having left their slippers without. As I entered I saluted this company. Two seapoys were also in the hall, upon guard, dressed and armed as ours generally are. In about two minutes the golden cloth was drawn up, like the curtain of a play-house, exactly in the same way, and we all made a profound obedience to his majesty, who just glanced his eye at me. My two servants were then ordered by the shabander to advance with the presents, which, after having presented, by holding them up and bending their bodies, they gave to an attendant, and were then directed to withdraw. The cloth of gold had covered a large niche in the wall, a kind of alcove, in the middle of which the king was seated in an arm-chair, with his legs across, barefooted, his slippers on the floor of the alcove. The king was gaily dressed in silver brocade, over an inner garment of white muslin; his turban was very small, being a single piece of gold flowered muslin, gathered together at the ends, tied round the head with a half knot, and was ornamented with a few jewels. He seemed to be about forty years of age, with a pleasing countenance,

rather fair for a Malay. Two elderly women sat on the floor, close to each side of his chair, their eyes fixed on the ground, which was about five feet higher than the hall in which the court was assembled. The alcove was lighted with two large wax tapers coloured red, much like what we see in Roman Catholic churches. The hall was lighted with pendent lamps, in which they burnt oil.

Having caught the king's eye, immediately after the dismissal of the presents, I made his majesty a second profound bow. Presently he spoke to the shabander, the shabander spoke to the linguist, and Abraham asked me whence I came. I addressed his majesty directly in Malay, on which the shabander pulled me gently by the sleeve, and looked disapprobation: but I went on. The king smiled, and took no notice of their interruption, as if offended with me. I had then the honour of conversing with his majesty for about a quarter of an hour, who asked me several pertinent questions about Madras, Bengal and Bencoolen, and particularly to what parts of the island Sumatra (*Pulo Purcha*) I had failed. I then, by intimation from the shabander, who, I suppose, had his signal, retired, walking rather backward, until out of the hall. Nobody in the hall was seated; neither did I see in it bench, chair, or stool. I left most of the company in it standing, who politely made way for me, as I retired; and, at the door at which I entered, I made again a profound bow, being then in full view of the king in the alcove at the further end of the hall.

Next day a bullock was sent me, with various fruits. I sailed two days after for Nattal, after presenting the shabander and Abraham with some trifles. In the year 1772, Giles Holloway, Esq. resident of Tappanooly, was sent to Atcheen by the Bencoolen government, with a letter and present, to ask leave from
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the king to make a settlement there. I carried him from his residency of Tappanooly in the Loconia snow. Not being very well on my arrival, I did not accompany Mr. Holloway (a very sensible and discreet gentleman, and who spoke the Malay tongue very fluently) on shore at his first audience; and finding his commission like to prove abortive, I did not go to the palace at all. There was great anarchy and confusion at Atcheen at this time; and the malecontents came often, as I was informed, near the king's palace at night. A discreet native of Cuddalore, Mr. Gowen Harrab, commanded the king's seapoys. One day, being on shore for a little while, as Mr. Holloway and I did not like to be both long on shore together, I saw Mr. Harrab paying his men in gold dust, weighing out to each two mayan as a month's pay, about eight rupees. He told me he was often obliged to watch all night himself, complaining of his seapoys being apt to be drowsy. I failed in a few days, Mr. Holloway not succeeding in his embassy; and leaving him at Tappanooly, I proceeded on to Fort Marlborough.

Returning from my New Guinea voyage to Fort Marlborough, in 1775, I touched at Atcheen: the king was very ill, and saw no strangers. My old friend Abraham got the new shabander, Pofally, to present my compliments to the king, who returned me a polite answer. Having quitted the Tartar galley, I went down the coast with Mr. Palmer, in a sloop belonging to him, and touched at Siddo Harbour, where we took in water: we lay there in four fathoms water, close to the rocks, quite smooth.

In 1784 I again visited Atcheen, and had an audience of the king, Sultan Oola Odine, son to the former king, with much the same ceremony and presents as passed twenty years before: but this king having travelled, spoke both Malay, French, and Portuguese. His improvement not only in languages,

but the arts, was obtained from the following circumstance, as I have been informed by Pofally the shabander, Abraham, and others.

During the life of the late king, Oola Odine, his eldest son, was sent in a ship of his father's to Mecca and Medina, to make an offering at the shrine of the prophet. Near the island Mauritius, where the vessel happened to be drove, they were short of water, and obliged to put in there. A difficulty occurred in debate whether the prince should appear in his real character, or as a private person. They agreed he should appear as a relation of the king's, going on a pilgrimage, to become a *tuan hadjee*, master pilgrim, and they kept their council. The consequence was, Odine, being a lad of spirit and genius, got into the arsenal, and learnt to cast guns and shells.

They certainly knew time out of mind, at Atcheen, how to cast brass guns and iron shot: but here the prince, no doubt, improved his knowledge; and I was told the French never knew whom they had the honour to have amongst them until the vessel was failed: but this I very much doubt, as the staid there above a month. Sultan Ooladine, in 1784, made no secret to me of his having been at Mauritius; and at my first visit, after the delivery of the usual present of a few piece goods enclosed in a yellow cloth, ordered a servant to put into my hands a shell of his own casting at Atcheen, about seven or eight inches in diameter. *Voila!* said he, in French, *Cassez-la?* I accordingly dashed it on the part of the stone floor that was not covered with the carpet, and it went to pieces. The king then ordered two small field carriages to be brought into the hall: one of them had the wheels spoked as ours generally are; the other had truck wheels, full as large, not heavy but thin. Which of those carriages do you approve of? said the king. I gave the preference to the spoked wheels, on which his

majesty with great good humour laughed, and said, *Salla, falla, capitain*—You are mistaken, you are mistaken, captain. I, then, by way of recovering myself (for I perceived, after a moment's reflection, that the king was right in a certain degree), said, *Barancallee de neegri gunong, gunong, seferattee Aché; tappi, de neegri ratta ratta, seferattee Tekinga*. Possibly in a hilly country, like Atcheen; but, in a flat country, like Indostan—The king laughed again, seemed pleased with my answer, and said, *Bittoul, derry piddo itoo*—True, that is the reason; on which I made him a bow, and the conversation soon ended. Visiting the king a day or two after this, I perceived, besides the two large brass mortars sent to a former Atcheen monarch, by our king James, many heaps of brass guns of all sizes, and from all nations, no ways arranged, but heaped up in the greatest confusion. I have also observed in the road from the river to the palace gate, which is about three hundred yards, in more than one place, the trunnion of a large brass gun sticking up out of the ground: considering the soft muddy soil, there are doubtless many buried near the palace, never to be found. They generally buy small guns, being of easy conveyance, when brought for sale, as no vessel, Atcheen or Malay, sails without being armed. I have also observed on more than one point of the reaches of the river, large honey-combed iron guns mounted on decayed and rotten carriages. They served for show to the ignorant.

The Atcheeners, when pushed, can certainly exert themselves; they are doubtless pretty good mechanics, and know the use of pulley, screw, and capstan perfectly well; but engines made use of to raise heavy guns, or draw up large vessels, are only for the moment; they are then thrown by to rot, much like what I have seen at Mindano. A laziness prevails in all Moorish governments, which no doubt arises from their

belief in fatalism, a most convenient creed for those who are averse to work, to exertion, or perseverance. I sent to the king a copy of my voyage to New Guinea, having first explained many of the maps to Pofally and Abraham. I sent at the same time, an ordinary *mape monde*, having no better. The king sent for me two days after, and conversed with me in an upper apartment, on a level, I believe with the alcove, to which I ascended behind the *ruma de bicharro* (hall of audience), by a ladder. The king made me sit down on a mat, over which was spread a small carpet, on which he sat himself, and asked me many questions about the Molucca princes, pointing to the print of their genealogy in the book I had sent him: he asked me also many questions about Europe and Neegri-Cling. Indostan. I could not help observing that the king spoke with a strong aspirate, as Atcheeners generally do, a kind of burr in the throat, entirely different from all other Malays.

As his majesty knew I had the honour of being known to his father many years before, that I had often been at Atcheen, and that I had been a great traveller in Malay countries, he was so kind as to say, in a very gracious manner, *Marée seenee barancallee bicharo*, Come here and chat sometimes. I went several times; but always sent first to know if his majesty was at leisure. One day I carried a French book with me, a volume of Voltaire, and read a sentence out of it. The king asked for the book, which I left with him. I suspect, however, he could not read the Roman character; but he read with ease the names of the Molucca princes in the book I had presented, written in Arabic characters, which both Atcheeners and Malays use in writing. In conversing, the king mixed often French with Portuguese.

Three or four days before my departure, Pofally signified to me the king meant to confer on me the honour

honour of being made a knight of the golden sword, *Oran Cayo derry piddang mas*; of which there existed, as I was told, about ten or twelve natives, one of them an eunuch, a comely man, rather lusty, employed at the custom house. I have seen him with his chapp, a single waved sword or dagger, about an inch long, in relief, on a piece of gold, hanging at his breast: this honour had also been conferred on two North Britons, Captain Douglass Richardson, and Captain Robert Smart. I told Pofally I was much obliged to his majesty for the honour he intended me, and I should wait his pleasure; at the same time Pofally desired I would write my name on a slip of paper; I wrote it in capitals, which he pronounced after my reading it, and writing himself my name in Arabic characters, signified it was to direct the goldsmith who was to make the chapp. Two or three days afterwards, I was desired by a seapoy serjeant to go to the palace. I told this to Pofally, and we went together at eight in the evening. The king, from the alcove above, after some little conversation with his courtiers below, spoke to Pofally in the Atcheen tongue, who, stepping towards me, put a small chain of gold over my head, round my neck, to which the golden chapp with some fillagree writing in Arabic, and the figure of a waved dagger in relief, hung: he thus invested me with the order of the golden sword (*piddang mas*), on which I made a profound bow to the king, who smiled, and to his courtiers, who all returned it by lifting both hands to the head, and inclining the body. In a little while I took leave, after saying audibly, *Oomoor panjang summo Tuan-kito, sampy mat-tee tida bule scio lupu Tuan-kito punio hormat*. "Long life to the king! Until death I shall remember the honour he has done me." Next morning I was presented with a

young bullock, two cut goats, and a great quantity of excellent fruit. I returned two pieces of yellow china flowered damask, about four dozen bottles of perfumery, several prints of the genealogy of the kings of Mindano, and of the Mindano marriage: to Pofally I gave a pair of pistols he seemed to fancy, and to my old friend Abraham, several things I knew would be useful to him and his family.

Thus ended my several interviews with two of the kings of Atcheen, who certainly treated me with great civility and politeness. I am sorry to add, that it was said even of the present king, that he cannot trust his own subjects; he therefore has a guard of seapoys, who are sometimes without, sometimes within the palace; but always near his person. I asked Pofally, and also Abraham, the meaning of this, who always answered, *Bugitu adat*, "Such is the custom," without explaining further; others have said plainly, *Tuan-kito de Aché dowloo tackut derry dio punio orankayo*, "The kings of Atcheen formerly were afraid of their nobles." They were too polite to say the present king was. This accounts for going up by a ladder to the back apartments, that were by no means larger than what are usually seen in Malay houses of people of rank. I never walked about the circuit of the palace; I feared it would have given offence, as if I was curious to spy the nakedness of the land: but I saw enough to convince me it had been once immensely large, and many parts shewed an extensive ruin, with the points of beams in many places sticking up through the rubbish of long-fallen brick walls; the ruins of stone walls were overgrown with bushes, and were shaded by very large venerable trees and tall bamboos.

The present king, Sultan Ooladine, (called after an uncle who had lived several years at Madras, in the time

time of Governor Morfe, and afterwards at Tappanooly, and spoke good English) is a sovereign of whom his subjects in general speak well: having travelled, he wishes to civilize them, by encouraging learning amongst the many priests, with which his country abounds, much more than any other Sumatran state: the convenience also of going at a small expence to Mecca yearly, encourages many to become *tuan hadjees* and *tuan imums*, which is always respectable: and there is no such thing as a *tuan hadjee* being reduced to beggary. Of the respect paid to my old fellow traveller Ismael Tuan Hadjee, merely from his having been at Mecca, and in consequence wearing a large turban and wide sleeves, which draw respect from the vulgar, I had many proofs in my voyage to New Guinea.

At Atcheen they have tame elephants,* on which, as well as on horseback, they often travel. I have seen several of the king's elephants carried duly of a morning to the river to be washed, flapping their eyes with their large ears to keep off the fly. The king had about ten of them in different parts near Atcheen. On holidays, *aree raya*, I was told they are all drest out, and make a figure; but I never saw one. Their mosques are said to be numerous, but very small; fifty persons would almost fill one; they are all whitened with lime, *capoor*; they are scattered amongst many villages, the houses of which not being whitened, the mosques are the more conspicuous; their smallness accounts for their number. They have many priests, *tuan hadjees*, and *tuan imums*, and two or three *caliphas*, sometimes called *cady*.

Their punishments at Atcheen are severe, according to the nature of the crime. In the Bazar I have often met beggars and others without the right hand, some without the right hand and left foot, having repeated the offence. I have been told, that when a fire happens, the owner of the house in which it broke out is severely punished.† What Mr. Marfden relates of their punishment of an adulterer is a fact; nay, I have been told it extends to the debaucher of a virgin, *gadis*. "The culprit is carried to a large plain, and is there encircled by the friends and relations of the injured party. A large weapon is then delivered to him by one of his own family; and if he can force his way through those who surround him, he is not subject to further prosecution; but it commonly happens that he is instantly cut to pieces." An English country captain, whose name I forgot, once told me that he had been applied to by some Atcheeners, for a marksmen to shoot a man of this description, who somehow had escaped, whether in the above spirited manner, or otherwise, was not said; but he had hid himself on the top of a coco-nut tree. The captain very prudently desired to be excused.

The Atcheeners are of a more swarthy complexion than the inhabitants to the southward, and far more shrewd and acute than any other Malays on the island Sumatra: their character, I think, comes nearest the Buggeses, inhabitants of Celebes, for address and dexterity in business; but far inferior in true honour and bravery, which is the characteristic of the Buggeses.‡ I do not remember any Chinese at Atcheen;

* Wild elephants are in abundance all over Sumatra, and they often do much mischief to rice and plantain fields.

† Com. Beaulieu says a fire happened whilst he was there, that burnt 260 houses in an hour, and that the king impaled the woman in whose house it broke out. Harris's Voyage, vol. I. p. 736.

‡ On the contrary, the Atcheeners seem to exceed all other Asiatics I have known for villainy and treachery, which character is confirmed by Beaulieu in many instances.

Atcheen; but Chinese were there in Commodore Beaulieu's time. The keen Chulias seem to leave nothing for them to pick up. Before I conclude this short account of what I observed at Atcheen, during the several visits I made to that port, I cannot help again mentioning Mr. Marsden's excellent account of the island Sumatra, Pulo Purcha, a book I have more than once quoted:

his account is faithful, curious, and exact; and as I have passed many years of my life on trading voyages to that island, I read it with great pleasure and satisfaction, as it recalls many scenes of manners and customs to my memory, by time and absence almost obliterated. Mr. Marsden understands the Malay tongue better than any European I ever knew.

MEMOIR ON THE NATURE OF ALKALINE SULFURES, OR LIVER OF SULPHUR.

BY MESSRS. DEIMAN, VAN FROOSHWYCK, NEWLAND, AND BONDT.

THESE gentlemen inform us, that the present memoir is the fruit of a course of physico-chemical enquiries into the natures of livers of sulphur, which they have undertaken in concert, and of which they purpose, from time to time, to give an account. We shall pass over the experiments they relate, and confine ourselves to the general conclusions they draw from them, which they give in the following words.

1. Sulphur, in uniting with alkalis, lime, barytes, and magnesia, forms with these substances chemical combinations, possessing properties, and having laws of attraction, different from those of their component parts. 2. One of the most remarkable properties acquired by sulphur in this state, is the faculty of attracting oxygen. The reason of this more active attraction seems to be, that the alkali presents to the combination of sulphur and oxygen in proportion as it forms a base, to which this combination unites with the greatest avidity to constitute sulfate. In this case then, formation of the sulfate is the effect of the two affinities, of that which the sulphur itself has for oxygen, which takes place only at a very high temperature, and of that which the alkaline

base has for the combination of sulphur and oxygen, that is to say, to sulphuric acid, so that the latter renders the former more intense. 3. This faculty of attracting oxygen, however, is not increased in the sulphur by its combination with an alkali, so far as to be capable of making the oxygen quit the state of gas, not even when it is found combined with azotic gas in the state of nitrous gas. These sulfures exert their attraction for oxygen in decomposing water. It appears that the oxygen of water is attracted in this case preferably to that which is in the state of gas, because the latter is united with a considerable quantity of the matter of heat; it is the same phenomenon as we observe with respect to iron, which does not alter perceptibly either in the atmosphere, or in pure oxygenous gas, whilst it gradually attracts the oxygen of water. 4. On examining a liver of sulphur moistened with water, or prepared in the humid way, we find that the oxygen of water united with a part of the sulphur, is converted into sulphuric acid, and that this acid has formed a sulfate with the base of the sulfure. 5. The hydrogen of the water, as soon as it is set at liberty, unites with a part of the sulphur, and forms the compound, known by the